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LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 31 January and 13 March 1997, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Iranian violations of the cease-fire and the 1991 Tehran agreement between 31 January and 13 March 1997

1. 31 January 1997

Using armed force, the Iranian side stole 350 head of sheep, a wristwatch and a garment belonging to the citizen Kati' Khalaf al-Zubaydi after tying the hands of the Iraqi shepherds (the children of the aforesaid citizen). The sheep were taken inside Iranian territory. The Iranian thieves were four in number, and one of them was carrying a GC rifle and another a bayonet. They were wearing Iranian dress and spoke Persian.

2. 6 February 1997

At 1130 hours the Iranian side installed a machine-gun in the Mayal Tak post at coordinates 5740 (1:100,000 map of Mandali) opposite the Haran post. There were thus two machine-guns in the Iranian post.

3. 8 February 1997

At 0930 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen heading from coordinates 5674 to coordinates 5672 (1:100,000 map of Baydah). It continued to fly along the international boundary for a period of 5 minutes.

4. 9 February 1997

At 1400 hours, while Private Ali Jathir Muhammad was proceeding along the Naysami road near the Shirhaniyah post he was ambushed by an Iranian patrol consisting of three persons in military uniform. He was abducted by them and taken inside Iranian territory. At 0200 hours on 10 February 1997 he was released and returned to his unit.

5. 13 February 1997

At 0100 hours a small Iranian boat with 28 persons on board was seized inside our territorial waters at coordinates 59172 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr).

6. 13 February 1997

At 1000 hours a fibreglass boat with a 48-horsepower engine carrying two Iranians was seized inside our territorial waters in the Faw area at coordinates 592173 (1:100,000 map of Faw).

7. 3 March 1997

At 1700 hours the Iranian side erected a radio receiver antenna at the position located at coordinates 501455 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

8. 4 March 1997

At 1700 hours four persons wearing Iranian military uniform and carrying GC light weapons were seen near the boundary road and the Jalat post at coordinates 813084. The Iranians were pursued by our patrols, and they fled inside Iranian territory at coordinates 860050.

9. 8 March 1997

At 0800 hours a number of Iranian fishing vessels deployed in the offshore area at coordinates 505980 as far as the Khayyen Canal at coordinates 230719. Each of them had seven or eight persons in civilian clothing on board and they were carrying binoculars, night-vision equipment and radio equipment. There was a distance of 2 to 3 kilometres between one fishing vessel and the next, and a small red fibreglass boat stood alongside each of them carrying three civilians armed with GC weapons and small arms and equipped with radio communications gear. All of the vessels and boats flew the Iranian flag.

10. 8 March 1997

An Iranian tug bearing the name Nasir II with nine civilians with a video camera on board proceeded to film the Iraqi shore in the area between Shahiniyah, at coordinates 2865, and Fayhan, at coordinates 3256.

11. 8 March 1997

Iranian forces reinforced the observation posts along the Iranian shore, so that each was manned by five persons instead of four.

12. 13 March 1997

At 1130 hours a group of about six armed Iranians in civilian clothing approached the Iraqi position located on the slope of Sayf Sa'd at coordinates 8512 (1:100,000 map of Mandali). There was an exchange of fire between the Iranian group and the personnel at the position. At 1350 hours the group fled towards Iranian territory.